

changing opportunities for the veterans he served. Bob organized numerous initiatives to support veterans and oversaw the creation of the Honor Deceased Veteran program. He was a true veteran's veteran.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize the extraordinary life of Bob Mitchell, and his brave and selfless service to his country and fellow veterans. It is my hope that his fearless spirit and bravery will be carried on by those who knew and loved him.

HOMETOWN HERO—RICHARD G.
STEWART, JR.

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Richard G. Stewart, Jr. of Irving, TX who served in the U.S. Navy. Over the weekend, I had the honor of awarding Richard the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Throughout his outstanding 24-year military service record, Richard was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, the Navy Commendation Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Star, among many others. Richard retired from the Navy in 1994 and went on to serve his community in various more ways.

It is an honor to recognize the distinguished veterans of TX 24 and to preserve their stories for future generations of Americans through the Congressional Veteran Commendation. I thank Richard for his service and the sacrifices he made to protect our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF PARACHUTE
RIGGER PETTY OFFICER 2ND
CLASS REBA ALEXANDER
MONCUS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary trailblazer, sailor, World War II veteran, and dedicated civil servant, Parachute Rigger Petty Officer 2nd Class (P/R 2) Reba Alexander Moncus, who was honored at Veterans Day Program for the American Legion Post 30 on November 11, 2021, at 8 a.m.

Reba Alexander Moncus was born November 30, 1921, in Berrien County, Georgia, to the union of the late Mr. J.H. and Mrs. Lodia Alexander. As a family of sharecroppers during the Great Depression, the Alexanders often moved around, and with money being scarce, the only food they purchased was the food they could not grow on their own. Because her family could not afford to buy schoolbooks for her studies, Reba had to drop out of school in the third grade. It was not until Ed Rivers became Governor of Georgia, that the state began furnishing free schoolbooks, and Reba was able to return to her studies. She attended six different schools in a three-county area, before graduating from high school at the age of 21. After high school, she

went to Thomaston, Georgia where she worked for Thomaston Mills, and after some time there, she realized that a life of drudgery working in a cotton mill was not the life she wanted to live.

On March 10, 1943, Reba answered the call to serve her nation and enlisted in the newly formed U.S. NAVY WAVES (Women Appointed for Volunteer Emergency Services), the women's branch of the U.S. Navy, and was the first woman to be recruited from the Albany, Georgia area. Upon enlisting, she started basic training at Hunter College in New York along with 10,000 other women on July 15, 1943. After Basic she was assigned to the Recreation Department onboard Naval Air Station Anacostia, in Washington, D.C. Reba was adamant about wanting to serve her country in every capacity and wanting to contribute to the World War II efforts, and after battling with the Navy Bureau of Personnel for four months, she finally convinced them that she was capable of serving on the front lines. On January 1, 1944, Reba was assigned to Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey for training as a parachute rigger. On April 1, 1944, upon completion of her training, she was sent to Naval Air Station (NAS) Melbourne, Florida, where new Naval Aviators were taught tactics, gunnery, and general flight prior to shipment overseas. During her tenure at NAS Melbourne, she was also able to participate in the drop test flights but, as one of two female riggers, she was not allowed to test jump chutes, as they were reserved only for the male riggers. Reba spent the most fulfilling days of her life, interrupted by moments of pure horror at Melbourne, as her duties included inspecting and repacking unused military parachutes and salvaging the hardware from burned parachutes, which included smelling the horrible stench of human flesh mixed with burnt aviation gas, oil, and everything involved with an airplane crash. She was later reassigned to NAS Opa Locka in November of 1944 and was released from active duty on November 24, 1945.

Following her military service, she continued to serve her community and make an impact in the lives of others. Her contributions include serving her fellow Veterans as a member of the American Legion Post 30 in Albany, Georgia and serving on the Honor Guard Burial Detail for more than two decades. Moreover, she urged her fellow vets and first responders suffering from the effects of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder to seek help.

Douglas Adams once said that "To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." P/R 2 Reba Alexander Moncus has demonstrated through her career and life, outstanding achievement, service, and public distinction. Our community, our state, and our nation are better because of her.

Reba accomplished much in her life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her family including her late husband, Albert Holton Harrell; and her children, and her grandchildren.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District in honoring and commending Parachute Rigger Petty Officer 2nd Class (P/R 2) Reba Alexander Moncus for her outstanding service to her nation, community, and humankind.

FURTHER RECOGNIZING CHINESE-AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, on November 5th, I proudly recognized dozens of Chinese-American Veterans from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who served gallantly in our United States military during World War II.

Today, I rise once again to further acknowledge additional service members who committed themselves to defending our national ideals and values in the gravest hours of that war.

Ging G. Ju, Hoi Yook Wong, Ging T. Chin, Harvey C. Young, George W. Jung, Leong Q. Yee, Poy Quon Fong, Jan Lim, William Lee Sr., Mun H. Wong, Yook Been Eng, Frank Wong Leung.

In 2018, Congress passed and the President signed into law S. 1050—The Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, which authorized the Congressional Gold Medal to be awarded to these individuals in recognition for both their service to our Nation during a time at war and to our Nation's Chinese American community. Not only did they help in defeating our Nation's enemies, but they overcame the many challenges they and their families had due to the existence of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. As a matter of fact, 40 percent, of the Chinese who served were not even citizens of the United States at the time. It was not that they did not want to become citizens, but that they were denied that right under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. However, due to their service and sacrifices for our Nation during WWII, Congress finally repealed this unjust law in 1943. This laid the groundwork for many of our Veterans to return home after the war and to attain the opportunities that they rightfully earned in their military service to our Nation.

I would again respectfully like our Congress today to show our appreciation and gratitude to these great Americans. We will always remember and treasure their personal sacrifices and contributions to our Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION OF AZERBAIJAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, on November 10th the world saw the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh come to an end, and with it, the rightful restoration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.

As many Azerbaijani citizens know all too well, last year's war was not an isolated incident. After a ceasefire agreement ending the First Nagorno-Karabakh War in May of 1994, in which Armenia took approximately 14 percent of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized

territory, tensions between the two countries remained unresolved, and for good reason—the illegal seizure of these territories was in direct violation of no less than four United Nations Security Council Resolutions passed the year before (UNSCRs 822, 853, 874, and 884).

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States and Azerbaijan have maintained robust ties and a strong strategic partnership. Our Nation was one of the first countries to recognize Azerbaijani independence in the early 1990s, and since then, we have worked together with the Azerbaijani government to protect and promote European energy security, increase trade and investment, and combat terrorism and other transnational threats.

Azerbaijan has proven time and again to be steadfast partners, with her servicemen proudly serving shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. Forces in Kosovo and Iraq. Azerbaijan began its peacekeeping presence in Afghanistan in 2002 and was one of the last foreign countries to withdraw its troops. In support of the U.S. mission, Azerbaijan allowed about 40 percent of all cargo destined for NATO personnel in Afghanistan to pass through their country.

One year following the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, I extend my best wishes to the people of Azerbaijan following the fortification of their nation's territorial integrity, and urge both Armenia and Azerbaijan to sign a definitive and final peace agreement. Peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan will boost bilateral relations between the two countries and ensure increased regional cooperation.

HONORING DR. JAMES D. ECKERT

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, Dr. James Eckert is one of many fellow Americans born stateside but whose path took him to Puerto Rico, where he raised his family and devoted himself to the development of education. His leadership in the military and educational fields touched many in our dear Island. Born on October 2, 1932, in New York City, New York, he attended the University of Southern California where he received his bachelor's degree. After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, receiving a Commission as a Marine Corps Officer in 1960. His recent passing is a deeply felt loss to his family but also to the many people in Puerto Rico that were touched by him.

During his military career, he served in the Republic of South Korea and South Vietnam. He also served at sea aboard the USS *Boxer*, a 27,100-ton *Essex*-class aircraft carrier that in the late 1950's was transferred to the Atlantic Fleet as an "interim amphibious assault ship" and mainly operated in the Caribbean area with the Tenth Provisional Marine Brigade on board. While the USS *Boxer* was in Puerto Rico, Marine Officer James Eckert met his future wife Mrs. Carmen "Tata" Eckert from the town of Fajardo. Their relationship blossomed and was blessed by the arrival of 3 children who grew to become professional in their own right; Attorney Heydsha Colon, Mr. James D. Eckert and Mr. Larry E. Eckert who enriched the family with a bouquet of 5 grandchildren.

After 25 years of service and with the rank of Major, James D. Eckert retired from the United States Marine Corps with the satisfaction of having served our nation with great honor. During his military career Major Eckert's valor and leadership was recognized by various decorations, medals, badges and commendations. Upon retirement Major Eckert established his family in Puerto Rico where he pursued and obtained Master and Doctoral Degrees in Education and worked in different leadership positions ranging from High School to University level.

The Marine Corps motto of "Semper Fidelis" or Always Faithful accompanied him through his life after retirement, where his sense of duty manifested in his voluntary service in various military and civic organizations. He served as President of the Puerto Rico chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars and the Reserve Officers Association and was an active member of the Marine Corps Association, the Navy League of the United States. Respected as a leader, family man, father, grandfather and restless advocate of Puerto Rico's veteran and military community, he always demonstrated his patriotism, bravery, and courage. Without a doubt Major James D. Eckert is an example and inspiration to follow by all.

HOMETOWN HERO—EDWARD REYES

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edward Reyes of Carrollton, TX who served in the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman in Vietnam.

Last weekend, I had the honor of awarding Edward the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation. We honor him for his courage and bravery when entering the Army in June 1969 and being honorably discharged in May 1971.

Since then, Edward has made a great impact on his community by serving as the President of Vietnam Veterans of America Dallas Chapter, working in law enforcement, serving on the Executive Board of Directors of the American Legion Post 453, and serving in various other organizations.

Edward has always put others first and continues to make a lasting impact on the lives around him. It is an honor to recognize the distinguished veterans of TX 24, like Edward, and to preserve their stories for future generations of Americans through the Congressional Veteran Commendation. I thank Edward for his service and the sacrifices he made to protect our great nation.

HONORING MICHAEL HULSIZER FOR HIS SERVICE TO KERN COUNTY AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 15, 2021

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael Hulsizer, a constituent,

friend, educator, and dedicated public servant. Throughout his illustrious career, Michael has been a tireless advocate for students throughout Kern County and influential in shaping the policies that impact our children, teachers, and our families. After dedicating nearly 45 years of service to Kern County, Michael will be retiring from his position of Chief Deputy for Governmental Affairs for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools next month.

Michael began his career in education as a teacher at Desert High School, located in Eastern Kern County and part of the Muroc Joint Unified School District. While at Desert High, he served as teacher sponsor of the school's Mock Trial team, eventually helping to lead the 1982–83 team to win the California State Mock Trial Championship. His leadership at Desert High and passion for providing students with the best possible academic and extracurricular opportunities led him to the Kern County Superintendent of Schools' Curriculum and Accountability Division, as a History and Social Science Consultant, in 1985. In this role, Michael helped to implement the highly regarded "We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution" annual competition, during which teams of high school students throughout Kern County put their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution to the test, and developed the Kern County History Day program, which continues to be a highly popular event among Kern County students of all ages.

In the early 1990s, Michael played a leadership role, on behalf of the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, in the creation of the Kern County Network for Children, a collaborative network of community-based organizations and stakeholders that aims to support Kern County's most vulnerable students. Nearly 30 years later, the Kern County Network for Children continues to serve families and at-risk youth through its collaborative model and system of family resource centers, thanks largely to Michael's leadership. In 2005, Michael brought his passion for Kern County students and civics education to our nation's capital by participating in the third annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education, hosted by the joint leadership of the United States Congress.

During his tenure as Chief Deputy for Governmental Affairs for the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, Michael had a hand in crafting education policy at the state and local levels and served as the primary liaison on federal education issues. He was particularly instrumental in the adoption and implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula in the State of California, and most recently helped to guide Kern County schools through the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that they received the federal and state relief funds necessary to continue to educate students throughout Kern County.

I have had the privilege of working with Michael on issues facing students in our community since my time in the California State Assembly and have consistently sought out his opinion and guidance over the years. Michael is respected by elected officials, educators, and students alike for his deep knowledge of education policy, and has left an indelible impact in our schools, community, and the State of California. While he will no longer be with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools, I have no doubt he will continue to champion causes important to him and our students. On